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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/766,179 | 01/27/2004 | Marcus Wang | 426.32B | 3693 |
| 27019 | 7590 | 08/30/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| THE CLOROX COMPANY 1221 BROADWAY #2351 OAKLAND, CA 94612 | | | PRUNNER, KATHLEEN J | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3751 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,179

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Kathleen J. Prunner

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3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2004 and 17 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 39-46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 17, 19, 20 and 30-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16, 18, 21-29 and 33-38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>012704</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because: (A) page 2 of the drawings is misnumbered as “2/222” in lieu of --2/22--; and (B) in Fig. 7, the lead line for “30” is misdirecting and should extend to the rod, not the surrounding space. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as “Annotated Marked-up Drawings” and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following title is suggested: A Cleaning Implement With Interchangeable Tool Heads.

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

5. The following informalities in the specification are noted: (A) on page 7, lines 19 and 22, "cradle 26" should read --cradle 76--. Appropriate correction is required.

6. The use of the trademark VELCRO® (note ¶ 0055) has been noted in this application. It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

7. The following informalities in the claims are noted: (A) in claim 32, on line 10, --and-- should be inserted after the semi-colon. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 30, 31, 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schultz et al. Schultz et al. disclose a system for treating a work surface (note

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lines 23-28 in col. 2) having all the claimed features including a handle portion (constituted by the spray bottle 12) having a proximal end and a distal end (constituted by spray head 14) wherein the distal end includes a first coupling (constituted by attachment forehead 28), a first tool head (constituted by the backing plate 30) having a plurality of surfaces (note Fig. 1), the first tool head 30 being adapted for use with a removable pad 16 (note lines 5-8 in col. 4) on at least a portion of a first surface of the first tool head (note Fig. 1) and having a second coupling (constituted by slot 34) on a second surface of the first tool head 30 (note Fig. 1), the second coupling 34 being capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling 28 on the handle portion 12 (note Figs. 1 and 2), a second tool head (note lines 61-64 in col. 1, lines 33-36 in col. 2 and lines 5-8 in col. 4) of similar configuration as the first tool head, i.e., having a plurality of surfaces and having third coupling 28, the third coupling 28 being capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling 28 on the handle portion 12, and a first fluid reservoir (constituted by the cleaner in the bottle 12, note lines 3-4 in col. 3) being capable of attaching to the system and configured to deliver a first fluid, i.e., the cleaner, to the work surface (note lines 23-28 in col. 2). With respect to claim 3, Schultz et al. also disclose a hand gripping surface at the proximal end of the handle portion 12 (note Fig. 1). With respect to claim 4, Schultz et al. further disclose that the connection between the second coupling 34 and the first coupling 28 is mechanical and frictional (note Fig. 2 and lines 35-40 in col. 3). With regard to claim 6, Schultz et al. additionally disclose a controlling mechanism (constituted by trigger assembly 19 and spray nozzle 20) adjacent the handle portion 12, the controlling mechanism allows the user to regulate release of fluid from the first fluid reservoir to the work surface (note lines 11-18 in col. 3). With regard to claim 7, Schultz et al. further disclose that the second tool head can comprise brushes (note lines 61-64 in col. 1) which are inherently formed with bristles. With regard to claim 8, Schultz et al. also disclose that the second tool head can be adapted for use with a removable pad on at least a portion of a second surface (note lines 61-64 in col. 3 and lines 5-8 in col. 4). With respect to claim 9, Schultz et al. additionally disclose that the second tool head comprises at least one device selected from the group of squeegees,

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scrubbers, absorbent pads and disposable cleaning pads (note lines 61-64 in col. 1, lines 61-67 in col. 3 and lines 1-8 in col. 4). With respect to claim 12, Schultz et al. further disclose that the first fluid reservoir is a physically pumped reservoir (note lines 3-17 in col. 3). With regard to claim 13, Schultz et al. additionally disclose a controller for releasing and stopping fluid flow from the first fluid reservoir (note lines 11-17 in col. 3). With regard to claims 17 and 19, Schultz et al. also disclose that the connection between the first coupling 28 and the second or third coupling 34 includes at least one axis of rotation (note lines 46-51 in col. 3). With regard to claim 30, Schultz et al. further disclose that treating a work surface is selected from the group of cleaning (note lines 61-62 in col. 1), scrubbing (note lines 25-27 in col. 2) and removing liquids (note lines 65-67 in col. 3). With respect to claim 31, Schultz et al. additionally disclose that the work surface is selected from automobile surfaces (note lines 18-21 in col. 1), windows, countertops and other hard surfaces (note lines 23-25 in col. 2). With regard to claim 32, Schultz et al. also disclose a handle portion (constituted by the spray bottle 12) having a proximal end and a distal end (constituted by spray head 14), a variety of tool heads (note lines 61-64 in col. 1, lines 33-36 in col. 2 and lines 5-8 in col. 4) capable of coupling to the distal end of the handle portion 12, a first removable pad 16 (note lines 5-8 in col. 4), such as a scrubbing pad (note lines 62-64 in col. 3), capable of attaching to at least a portion of a first tool head, the first removable pad being adapted for providing a first treatment to the work surface, a second removable pad (note lines 5-8 in col. 4), such as a sponge or cloth or towelette (note lines 64-67 in col. 3), being capable of attaching to at least a portion of a second tool head, the second removable pad being adapted for providing a second treatment to the work surface, and a first fluid reservoir (constituted by the cleaner in the bottle 12, note lines 3-4 in col. 3) being capable of attaching to the system and delivering a first fluid, i.e., the cleaner, to the work surface (note lines 23-28 in col. 2).

10. Claims 1-14, 17, 19, 20 and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fu. Fu discloses a system for treating a work surface (note the first sentence in ¶ 0002) having all the claimed features including a handle portion (constituted by the telescoping

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body 12) having a proximal end 26 and a distal end 32 wherein the distal end 32 includes a first coupling (constituted by the connecting sleeve 40), a first tool head 24a having a plurality of surfaces (note Figs. 7 and 8), the first tool head 24a being adapted for use with a removable pad (constituted by cleaning cloth 146, note ¶ 0040) on at least a portion of a first surface of the first tool head (note Fig. 8) and having a second coupling (constituted by attachment end 100) on a second surface of the first tool head 24a (note Fig. 7), the second coupling 100 being capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling 40 on the handle portion 12 (note Figs. 1 and 2), a second tool head 24b (note Fig. 5) having a plurality of surfaces and having third coupling (constituted by attachment end 200), the third coupling 200 being capable of making a connection to and disconnecting from the first coupling 40 on the handle portion 12, and a first fluid reservoir 14 being capable of attaching to the system and configured to deliver a first fluid, i.e., the cleaning fluid, to the work surface (note ¶ 0025). With respect to claim 2, Fu also discloses that the handle portion 12 can be extended and retracted (note ¶ 0024). With respect to claim 3, Fu further discloses a hand gripping surface 60 at the proximal end of the handle portion 12 (note Fig. 1). With regard to claim 4, Fu additionally discloses that the connection between the second coupling 100 and the first coupling 40 is mechanical. With regard to claim 5, Fu also discloses that the end of the handle 16 constitutes a cradle for securing the fluid reservoir 14 to the system (note Figs. 1 and 4). With regard to claim 6, Fu further discloses a controlling mechanism (constituted by control switch 58) adjacent the handle portion allowing the user to regulate release of fluid from the reservoir to the work surface. With respect to claim 7, Fu additionally discloses that one of the tool heads can comprise bristles (note the fourth sentence in ¶ 0047). With regard to claim 8, Fu further discloses that the one of the tool heads is adapted to use a removable pad such as a sponge (note the third sentence in ¶ 0047). With regard to claim 9, Fu also discloses that the second tool head comprises a squeegee 266 and an absorbent pad (constituted by the sponge 264). With respect to claim 10, Fu additionally discloses that the handle 16 (constituting another tool head) comprises an electric motor (note ¶s 0026 and 0033). With respect to claim 11, Fu also discloses that the reservoir 14 is detachable

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(note the first three sentences of ¶ 0024). With respect to claim 12, Fu further discloses that the reservoir 14 is a physically pumped reservoir (via pump 22). With respect to claim 13, Fu additionally discloses that the control switch 58 controls releasing and stopping of fluid flow from the reservoir. With regard to claim 14, since Fu disclose that the reservoir 14 can contain one of various fluids (note ¶ 0025), it is considered that to use one reservoir to hold soap, e.g., for cleaning purposes, and another reservoir to hold water, e.g., for rinsing, is considered to be within the purview of Fu. With regard to claim 17, Fu also discloses that the connection between the first coupling 40 and the second coupling 100 includes at least one axis of rotation (note the last sentence in ¶ 0038). With respect to claim 19, Fu further discloses that the connection between the first coupling 40 and the third coupling 200 includes at least one axis of rotation (note the second sentence in ¶ 0043). With respect to claim 20, Fu additionally discloses a locking mechanism (constituted by projection 256) capable of locking at least one axis of rotation. With respect to claim 30, Fu also discloses that the treatment is selected from cleaning and scrubbing (note ¶s 0002 and 0047). With regard to claim 31, Fu further discloses that the work surface is selected from floors, windows and other surfaces (note ¶ 0002). With respect to claim 32, Fu discloses a system for treating a work surface (note the first sentence in ¶ 0002) having all the claimed features including a handle portion (constituted by the telescoping body 12) having a proximal end 26 and a distal end 32, a variety of tool heads 24, 24a and 24b capable of coupling to the distal end of the handle portion 12, a first removable pad (constituted by cleaning cloth 146) capable of attaching to at least a portion of the first tool head 24a, the first removable pad 146 being adapted to provide a first treatment to the work surface, a second removable pad (constituted by sponge 264) capable of attaching to at least a portion of a second tool head 24b, the second removable pad 264 being adapted to provide a second treatment to the work surface, and a first fluid reservoir 14 capable of attaching to the system and capable of delivering a first fluid to the work surface.

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Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 15, 16, 18, 21-29 and 33-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if claims 15, 16, 18, 21, 33 and 36 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Claims 39-46 are allowed.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wu, Lenkiewicz et al., Sepke, Jafarmadar and Poole et al. are cited to show devices with interchangeable tool heads.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kathleen J. Prunner whose telephone number is 703-306-9044.

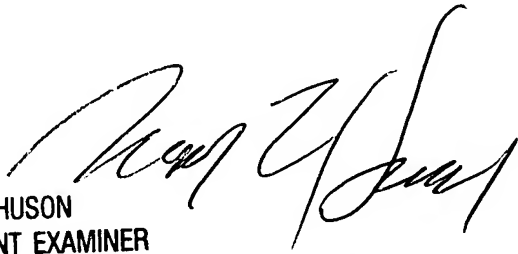
15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson can be reached on 703-308-2580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

16. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kathleen J. Prunner

August 20, 2004



GREGORY L. HUSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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